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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief/PPS/TR

DATE: 22 March 1960

FROM : Acting Chief/LAS/TR

SUBJECT: Semi-Annual Contribution to Hull Committee Report

REF : (a) C/PPS Memo dated 16 Mar 60, entitled: "Report to the President's Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities (Hull Committee)"
 (b) LAS Report dated 7 Oct 59

1. The principal accomplishment in the Language and Area School has been the development of a program of training for overseas effectiveness, in which an introductory course has been given once last spring and twice during the past six months. This course and program involves the preparation of Agency personnel going overseas for more effective discharge of their operational (and support) responsibilities through an examination of the concepts, principles and methodology of the behavioral and social sciences and the practical application of those concepts, principles and methodology to work abroad. It embraces acquainting the individual with himself as a biological and social person, with his background of American culture and social and political development. It entails an examination of the development of ethnic and social man. And it involves the working out of practical problems of interpretation and utilization of human, social and cultural factors in a foreign society to accomplish operational aims. It has been the almost unanimous consensus, both amongst the students who have taken the course (ranging from JOT's to senior members of the Clandestine Services) and our visiting lecturers and panelists (including leaders in the fields of sociology, medicine, linguistics, anthropology), that the program not only fills a very real want in the Agency, but is practically unique in its field.

2. The Americans Abroad Orientation program continues not only to expand and develop, but to be deepened in content. At the present time, both group presentations and individual briefings are being held, covering Western Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and the Far East. Most significant is the growing emphasis on the national character of the foreign people and on the personal problems of adjustment which employees and their dependents will encounter. Principles developed in the Overseas Effectiveness program are thus surveyed briefly, so that the two programs are being coordinated more and more closely. The Americans Abroad Orientation program is intended to set the students' course for a proper perspective and understanding of their new environment, and of its implications for them. Hence the concept of this course goes far beyond the level of a travelogue or cataloguing of minutiae of life at a particular station.

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3. Expansion of Language Proficiency Testing has permitted the acceleration of testing, both written and oral. In process is a move to inform all components of the Agency of the need for testing all persons within such component claiming a proficiency and to request that arrangements be made to require all such persons to be tested as soon as practicable.

4. Language training, both in the directed in-hours program and in the voluntary out-of-hours program, continues actively, with a gradual shift of emphasis from elementary to intermediate and advanced training, and from the more common languages to languages of more selective significance to the Agency. Two full-time courses in Arabic have been added to our course offerings. Elementary training in the common languages has been dropped from the out-of-hours program, with a consequent increase in effectiveness and efficiency in terms of Agency needs.



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